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REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-24 are pending in the instant application. Claim 8 has been cancelled and claims 1-7 have been amended without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been introduced by the amendment.

Applicants respectfully request the entrance of the foregoing amendments and an early and favorable action, as the application and claims are in condition for allowance.

If a telephonic communication with the Applicants' representative will advance the prosecution of the instant application, please telephone the representative indicated below. Applicants believe no additional fees are due but the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees required in connection with this response to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 10, 2003